X

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

REPRINT NO. 16 OF RECORDS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROGRESS REPORT

OF

FOREST ADMINISTRATION

IN

MYSORE

FOR

1867-68.

By Lieut. G. J. VanSOMEREN, 25th M. N. I.,
OFFICIATING CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS IN MYSORE.

WITH A REVIEW BY THE COMMISSIONER, AND THE ORDERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA THEREON.

Calcutta:
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PRESS,
1869.

Dated 3rd August, 1868.

From—L. BOWRING, Esq., *Commissioner of Mysore,*

To—*Secretary to the Government of India, P. W. Dept.*

With reference to your Circulars Nos. 22 and 9 F, dated 27th September 1867, and 20th June 1868, I have the honour to forward, for submission to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India in Council, the Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Province of Mysore for 1867—68, by Lieutenant Van Someren, Officiating Conservator of Forests, with a review by me.

PROGRESS REPORT

OF

FOREST ADMINISTRATION

IN THE

PROVINCE OF MYSORE

1867–68.

By Lieutenant Van SOMEREN,
OFFICIATING CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS.

REVIEW BY THE COMMISSIONER.

THE REPORT IS ANALYZED UNDER THE HEADS FOLLOWED BY THE CONSERVATOR.

A.—Examination of Forests and inspection of land applied for by private persons.

1. *Ashtagram.*—7 jungles were applied for for coffee cultivation, and 4 refused.

2. *Nugur.*—Nil.

3. *Nundidroog.*—Some progress was made in the Murlwadi hóblee in Kankanhulli in separating tracts of village jungles and reserving the rest for fuel. The same action was followed in the Magadee talook. These measures, owing to the vicinity of Bangalore, were judicious.

B.—Selection and demarcation of Government reserved Forests.

1. *Ashtagram.*—No additions made, and it is observed that the demarcating progress is indifferent, although it is admitted that the work is laborious.

2. *Nugur.*—The Assistant Conservator appears to have taken little trouble either to select reserved forests or to demarcate them. In a wild hilly jungle country such selection demands great circumspection, and a more experienced officer should be chosen for the duty.

3. *Nundidroog.*—I concur with the Conservator that Government forests in this division are of little value, and that attention should be concentrated on forming and conserving fuel plantations and encouraging sandalwood.

C.—Protection of the Forests.

1. *Ashtagram.*—The protection was adequate.

2. *Nugur.*—Sixty five cases of smuggling are reported, chiefly on the Dharwar frontier, which certainly indicates inefficient control.

3. *Nundidroog.*—The protection was on the whole fair.

D.—Yield of the Forests.

1. *Ashtagram.*—Operations in felling were designedly circumscribed, and a great proportion of the wood cut was jungle timber of the inferior kinds. Felling and trimming rates remain at 1 anna per cubic foot. Jungle wood seems to have fetched a fair price, which is encouraging. I approve of the measures taken to bring in by departmental agency the nai bela bark for distilling purposes, when it is found in reserved forests.

2. *Nugur.*—The stock in hand seems large, and the Assistant Conservator does not seem to have a clear idea of what limits should be put on his felling operations for the year.

3. *Nundidroog.*—The operations of the year appear very meagre, the sales having been indifferent, and the yield of sandalwood less than was anticipated.

E.—Plantations and Nurseries.

1. *Ashtagram.*—No progress reported.

2. *Nugur*—10,864 teak seedlings were raised on contract at Hoolyhulla and planted out.

3. *Nundidroog.*—Fair progress seems to have been made in the Coongul plantation, and I am glad to see that sandalwood has germinated well in the Kankanhulli nursery. I trust that the Ooscottah plantation will be vigorously prosecuted.

F.—Timber and Sandalwood Collection.

1. *Ashtagram.*—It is observed that the collection of timber exceeds that of 1866—67 by 20,000 cubic feet, but that on the other hand the selling rate has fallen from Rs. 1-5-8 to Rs. 1-0-6. The same fall is perceptible in sandalwood.

2. *Nugur.*—The report gives no means of comparison with the results of last year.

3. *Nundidroog.*—The same remark holds good. I concur that it is better to collect sandalwood through monegars than on simple contract.

G.—Financial Results.

1. *Ashtagram.*—The return is satisfactory, there having been a net profit of Rs. 81,294 in the year. It would have been useful to shew the receipts and disbursements of each year since the formation of the Forest Department. I am glad to see that the actual receipts are larger by Rs. 8,542 than the Budget estimate. I trust that the unadjusted advances are closely scrutinized.

2. *Nugur.*—The Budget entries and the actuals are:—

	Receipts.	*Expenditure.*
Budget	Rs. 1,88,260	Rs. 51,264
Actuals	„ 1,79,302	„ 26,723

This is not very satisfactory, the reduction in the expenditure being due apparently to short working principally, and the falling off in receipts, to restricted sales. This indicates want of activity on the part of the Conservator: and I fail to understand the great difference in the selling price of sandalwood in this division and in Ashtagram, in the former being only Rs. 67, and in the latter 81 Rs. per candy. There is a falling off of nearly Rs. 10,000 under grazing dues, which is unexplained.

3. *Nundidroog.*—The profits actually attained in this division were considerably less than the Budget estimate of them.

H.—CONTEMPLATED OPERATIONS.

1. *Ashtagram.*—Sandalwood reserves are to be formed. Forests reserved to be entirely demarcated; and systematic mapping and classifying of forests to be carried out. I think fuel plantations for Mysore should be added to this list of work before the Assistant Conservator.

2 *Nugur.*—The káns of Sorub, having been specially reported on by Dr. Brandis, need not be referred to. A few reserved jungles of *Hardwickia Binata* may probably be maintained in the Chituldroog district. In the wooded parts of the division, the demarcation of the reserved forests will demand great care and experience. I hope the Conservator may succeed in doing away with advances to wuddars, but I doubt it. Fuel plantations should receive attention.

3. *Nundidroog*—In this division the formation of fuel plantations seems to be of the utmost importance, and the more so as little response has been made to the liberal terms held out by the State to private individuals.

I.—GENERAL REMARKS.

1.—*Ashtagram.*—The charges for collecting sandalwood seem to have been nearly 50 per cent higher than in 1866—67, which can scarcely have been owing merely to the rise in the price of labor. I have no doubt that the valuation surveys recommended by Dr. Brandis will be highly useful. I observe that a good deal of jungle wood is now brought in by the department for sale.

2. *Nugur.*—I note that this range is not considered to have been adequately supervised, and that it would be, in the Conservator's opinion, if properly worked, richer than Ashtagram. A change in the superintendence is therefore needed. The teak forests have evidently been overworked.

3. *Nundidroog.* No remarks called for.

The general financial result for the Province is certainly very satisfactory, but the receipts and charges of former years should have been given for the sake of comparison. The surplus of receipts over expenditure was Rs. 2,73,523, as compared with Rs. 2,17,455 in 1866—67. The table given under out-standings is not intelligible (para 67).

As regards para 71, I question whether it will be possible to fix two months only in the year for inspecting forest land applied for for coffee plantations, but, on this point, the Superintendents should be consulted by the Conservator.

It would be premature to discuss at present the subjects referred to in para 70, revised general forest rules, as well as rules for forming village forests being now under consideration. The best results are anticipated from Dr. Brandis' visit to Mysore. The formation of fuel preserves and plantations requires increased attention.

The Conservator appears to have done his work actively and well. Mr. Dobbs has given satisfaction in his range, and Mr. Hunter seems entitled to commendation. I do not think Mr. Clerk was old or experienced enough to manage so difficult a charge as the Nugur division.

BANGALORE,
25*th June* 1868.

(Signed) L. BOWRING,
Commissioner.

CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS' OFFICE,
MYSORE AND COORG.

No. 145/15.

To—The Secretary to the Commissioner for the Government of the Territories of H. H. the Maha Rajah of Mysore.

Bangalore, 9th June 1868.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the Progress Report of the Mysore Forest Department for the year 1867—68.

Administrative and executive Officers in Charge.

2. With the interval of one month, (from 6th December 1867 to 6th January 1868), I officiated as Conservator throughout the year. In January 1868, Major Hunter resigned his appointment, and I was directed to continue to officiate. There has been no change among the executive officers since the submission of my last report.

Offg. Conservator's Tours.

3. During the year I visited various portions of each range. I rejoined my Head Quarters from Nugur on the 10th April 1867. Leaving Bangalore in August, I went over parts of Ashtagram and Coorg, returning at the end of October. I then went to the Toomkoor district. During December, as already stated, Major Hunter was in charge; and after resuming charge I left Bangalore on the 8th February, remaining out till the end of the official year,—most of the time with the Inspector General of Forests.

Heads of Report.

4. This report will, like last year's, be divided into the following heads, each range being separately reported upon.

HEADS OF REPORT.

A.—EXAMINATION OF FOREST TRACTS, AND INSPECTION OF LAND APPLIED FOR BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

B.—SELECTION AND DEMARCATION OF GOVERNMENT RESERVED FORESTS.

C.—PROTECTION OF FORESTS.

D.—YIELD OF FORESTS.

E.—TEAK PLANTATIONS AND NURSERIES.

F.—TIMBER AND SANDALWOOD COLLECTION AND COST, AMOUNT SOLD AND RATES.

G.—FINANCIAL RESULTS.

H.—CONTEMPLATED OPERATIONS.

I.—GENERAL REMARKS.

ASHTAGRAM RANGE.

A.—EXAMINATION OF FORESTS AND INSPECTION OF LANDS APPLIED FOR BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

5. During the year the 1st Assistant Conservator inspected seven jungles

applied for for coffee cultivation in the Hassan district. Of these four were refused on general and climatic reasons, and three given up.

B—Selection and demarcation of Government Reserved Forests.

6. No additions have been made to the lists of reserved forests. The progress made in demarcating those selected last year has not been so good as I hoped it would have been. The ryots in various villages objected to the line, and owing to other duties, the Forest and Revenue Officers were unable to meet at the time contemplated, and the work suffered. 2 miles were cleared in the Baigoor jungle, and operations commenced in Berambadi, but that was all. The Assistant Conservator has been directed in future to carry on the work where his line is not disputed and not to stop it altogether. This he has since done, and much progress has been made, which will appear in next year's report. Up to the 31st March 1868, 3½ miles in all had been cleared in the Baigoor jungles. The line is entirely cleared of all trees, stumps, and bamboos, (to a width of 7 yards), all of which are carried to the sides and there piled up. The work is heavy, but thoroughly done. Some idea of this work may be formed from the following statement. In a portion of the forest near an old tekkul, and where the jungle was light sixty eight clumps containing 915 bamboos and 31 trees (most of them small) had to be cut down in a length of 300 feet. The total expenditure during the year in clearing about 2½ miles and maintaining a portion of the old line was Rs. 144—8—0, but the Assistant Conservator has not discriminated between the charges. This will be done in future.

C—Protection of the Forests.

7. No change was made in the posting of the peons, and I am glad to believe that the forests are carefully watched. Three cases of illicit trading were brought to light, and Rs. 953—11—0 realized by the sale of the confiscated wood, against Rs. 634 last year.

D—Yield of the Forests.

8. As was intended in 1866—67, the felling of teak last year was much smaller than that of previous years. The following table shews the felling of 1866—67 and 1867—68.

	1866—67.	1867—68.
	Cubic Feet.	Cubic Feet.
Teak	22,930	15,916
Other Timber	10,358	17,887
Total.....	33,288	33,803

By this it will be seen, that though in 1867—68, 515 cubic feet were felled more than in 1866—67, the larger half of the timber cut was "jungle," the total out-turn of teak being 7014 cubic feet, or about 280 logs less than that of the preceding year. The amount of teak to be felled next year will be still smaller. The rate for felling and trimming remains unaltered, viz., anna one per cubic foot.

9. In addition to the 15,196 cubic feet of teak timber just mentioned, 2388 teak poles were cut in jungles where the tree seldom, if ever, grows higher than from 20 to 30 feet. These poles sold readily in Mysore at 1 rupee each, but of late the demand has been small and a few are still on hand.

10. As an experiment 52 cart-loads of jungle wood were collected at Untersuntay on the Manantoddy high road, at a total cost of Rs. 52. Sixteen cartloads were sold before the close of the year at Rs. 9 each, or a total of Rs. 144—0—0. This wood was stored here to meet the requirements of the neighbouring ryots, as most of the surrounding jungles are in the reserved lists. The financial result is good, but as not quite one-third of the amount was sold, I think it proves that the amount of forest left open for villagers is enough to meet their ordinary wants.

11. The bark of the nai bela (*acacia leucophlœa,*) was collected from the Veeranhossahully jungles, and stored at Hoonsoor for sale. This bark is used in distilling arrack, and was formerly cut on license, but as Veeranhosshully is a reserved forest, I have requested Mr. Dobbs to try whether he cannot meet the wants of the public by bringing in the bark departmentally, and so doing away with the inconvenience of allowing felling by outsiders in a reserved forest. The measure has not yet been long enough tried to enable me to report whether it is a good one or not. No wood has yet been applied for from the Hassan reserves, but, as already reported, most of these forests were set apart on climatic and general reasons.

E.—Teak Plantations and Nurseries.

12. In accordance with the suggestions of the Inspector General of Forests, the nissun plantation has been abandoned. He condemned the site and climate. 25 acres of land 4 miles further west, and within the boundary of the reserved forests has been cleared and is to be planted out this year.

13. *F.*—Timber and Sandalwood collection and cost, amount sold and rates.

Timber.

Woodyard.	Collection in cubic feet.	Cost	Cubic feet sold	Rate.	Amount in Rupees	Remarks.
Mysore.	43,632	0—5—0	36,394	1—0—6	40,524	Teak alone fetched 1—4—0 per cubic foot.
Baigoor.	22,137	0—3—0	0	0	0	

Sandalwood.

Collection in candies at stores.	Cost per candy.	Candies sold.	Rate	Amount in Rupees.	Remarks.
1,037	9—5—10	883	81—0—1	71,448	The Mysore candy weighs 560 lbs. English.

14. Stock in hand at close of the year.

	Rs.
Timber 6030 logs valued at Rs.	35,069
Sandalwood 219 candies..	17,520
Total....	52,589

15. The above statements require explanation. If compared with last year's corresponding tables it will be seen that the number of cubic feet of timber collected at depôts in 1867—68 exceeds by nearly 20,000 the amount collected in 1866—67, the actual fellings being equal. This is very satisfactory, proving that much old wood has been carted in. The cost is much the same, a small gain being credited to 1867—68. But on the other hand the average selling rate has fallen, this being only 1—0—6 in 1867—68, against 1—5—8 in 1866—67, all round. Teak has fallen from 1—8—10, to 1—4—0. This is owing to two causes. The selling price of teak poles though good was lower than that of teak timber, and so the average was reduced. But the chief cause was that about 3 months before the close of the year, large quantities of teak were brought in from the Poolhulli forests in Wynaad, and prices fell.

16. The average selling rate of sandalwood is apparently below that of 1866—67, but this was owing to a quantity of 12 candies of decayed wood, (which was not however worthless) being sold with the rest. This wood only fetched Rs. 9 per candy, thus reducing the average.

17. The above statements shew the actual sales, exclusive of the value of smaller quantities of sandalwood and timber given by the orders of the Commissioner to certain temples and to His Highness the late Maha Rajah of Mysore, such items appear in the regular statements.

G.—Financial Results.

RECEIPTS.

18. The sale proceeds during the year of timber and sandalwood as per the account sales furnished by the Assistant Conservator, stock in hand at close and beginning of year, &c., shew an excess of Rs. 1,706 over the Budget estimate. They are exhibited in the following table.

Budget Estimate.	Rs.	A.	P.	Sales.	Rs.	A.	P.
1 Sale of Timber brought to Depôts by Government agency. ...	1,04,000	0	0	Sales of timber and sandalwood as per account sales	1,12,809	3	4
Sale of confiscated wood... ...	1,000	0	0	Value of timber and sandalwood given to His Highness the Maha Rajah of Mysore	4,688	0	0
				Stock in hand at close of 1867-68.	52,589	0	0
				Sale of confiscated timber	953	0	0
					1,71,009	14	4
				Deduct value of stock in hand at close of 1866—67.	64,303	0	0
					1,06,706	14	4
	1,05,000	0	0	Excess over Budget.....	1,706	14	4

19. The actual receipts and expenditure in the range as per the accounts recognized in the Treasury are as below :—

Expenditure.	Budget Estimate.			Actuals.			Receipts.	Budget Estimate.			Actuals.		
Timber and Sandalwood working charges ..	25,000	0	0	32,965	8	8	I —Sale of Timber and Sandalwood at Depôts	1,04,000	0	0	1,24,603	11	1
Other working charges	3,100	0	0	2,252	4	8	II —Do. do. removed by purchasers ...	16,500	0	0	11,221	3	4
Establishments ..	20,948	0	0	16,120	5	9	V.—Grazing dues ...	0	0	0	5	0	0
Travelling allowance	1,500	0	0	1,394	4	7	VI.—Sale of fruits, &c	2,000	0	0	5,212	5	4
Contingencies ..	1,700	0	0	651	8	0	VII.—Do of confiscated drift...	1,000	0	0	84	1	0
Deputation allowance	0	0	0	1,120	0	0	VIII —Fines and forfeitures..	0	0	0	235	14	11
							IX.—Miscellaneous receipts including sale of decayed trees and duty on elephants caught by private persons.	1,500	0	0	1,298	2	4
								1,25,000	0	0	1,42,690	6	0
Total ..	52,248	0	0	51,503	15	8	Deduct Expenditure ...	52 248	0	0	54,503	15	8
							Balance in favor of Government.	72,752	0	0	88,186	6	4
							Add value of stock given to His Highness the Maha Rajah of Mysore. ...	0	0	0	4,668	0	0
							Do. given to temples	0	0	0	154	2	0
							Stock in hand at close of 1867—68. ...	0	0	0	52,589	0	0
							Total.....	72,752	0	0	1,45,597	8	4
							Deduct value of stock in hand at close of 1866—67.	0	0	0	64,303	0	0
							Balance of Profit.	72,752	0	0	81,294	8	4

20. It will be seen that the estimated expenditure has been exceeded by Rs. 2,255, and the receipts shew an excess over estimates of Rs. 8,542. The total net profit to Government being Rs. 81,294.

21. The unadjusted advances at the end of the year amount to Rs. 4,829 3—11; of this amount Rs. 1,966—5—0 are in the hands of amildars for sandalwood expenses, and Rs. 2,862—14—11 are advances in hands of Forest subordinates and miscellaneous balances.

22. *II.*—Contemplated Operations.

(*a.*) The work for the year will be the ordinary routine, great care being taken in the selection of trees to be felled.

(*b.*) The choosing sites for sandalwood reserves, and the systematic propagation of the trees as suggested by the Inspector General of Forests.

(*c.*) The demarcation of all reserves in the Mysore and where practicable those in the Hassan district.

(*d.*) The mapping and classifying and systematic working of the forests.

23. The estimated yield of timber of all kinds is placed at 50,000 cubic feet, 18,000 of which will be teak. Eight hundred candies (200 tons) of sandalwood will be collected.

I.—General Remarks.

24. In this range, the prices of labor have risen considerably. This is shewn by the amount expended in the collection of sandalwood. The charges for 1866—67 were Rs. 6—7—6, against a charge in the past year of Rs. 9—5—10, which, though within the estimate of the Budget, is high; but this could not be avoided.

25. Five elephants were caught in pits in various jungles. Two of them, one large and one small one, died soon after capture. Of the others, one was by the Commissioner's orders sent to the Lal Bagh, another sold, and the third was tamed and trained to carry, but has most unfortunately died since the commencement of the present year.

26. Dr. Brandis, the Inspector General of Forests, went over a portion of this range at the close of the year, and pointed out various things which required to be done, among them the systematic making of valuation surveys in the reserved forests. The surveys to be entered in the maps. This will be done during the year, and as the Assistant Conservator is thoroughly acquainted with the way of making them, he will begin as soon as the jungles are open.

27. It having been found that floating honay wood spoils it, I have directed Mr. Dobbs to bring in all his honay by land, even from the Baigoor forests. The extra expenditure is insignificant, amounting to not quite one anna per cubic foot, but the timber fetches from 2 to 5 annas more per cubic foot when sold.

28. During the past year mutty (*Terminalia tomentosa*) has been in no demand, arsentayga (*Nauclea cordifolia*) has fetched a good price, and Mr. Dobbs is bringing in various other jungle woods, which will I hope sell well.

NUGUR RANGE.

A.—Examination of Forest tracts, and inspection of lands applied for by private individuals.

29. No land having been applied for, the Assistant Conservator was not called upon to report on any.

B.—Selection and demarcation of the Government reserved Forests.

30. No demarcation work was done in this range during the year. The selection of the reserved forests has been arbitrarily fixed without due inspection

by the Assistant Conservator in charge, and the work will all have to be gone over again.

31. The kans in the Sorub talook have been thrown open, but before the close of the year no definite result was arrived at regarding them. They have since been inspected by the Inspector General of Forests, and the question of the kans of Sorub will, it is hoped, be settled during the current year.

C.—Protection of the Forests.

32. Sixty five cases of smuggling were detected during the year, but the Assistant Conservator has given no details of them; Rs. 1,370 were realized by the sale of confiscated wood. The Assistant Conservator reports that the peons employed on the border between the Sorub talook and the Dharwar zillah have been useful in checking theft.

D.—Yield of the Forests.

33. 1294 logs of timber and 1879 teak poles were collected during the year.

34. The Assistant Conservator has not yet introduced the careful measurement by cubic feet, which is so necessary to enable us to give a clear idea of the yield and return of the forests, the cost of collection, and several minor points. He has a very large stock of wood in hand (upwards of 4000 logs,) and till these are sold, I have directed him to stop felling. This measure was approved by the Inspector General after what he saw of the Luckuwulli jungles.

35. 1030 candies of sandalwood were collected during the year.

E.—Teak Plantations and Nurseries.

36. Ten thousand eight hundred and sixty four seedlings were raised on contract in the new plantation at Hoolyhulla and planted out. This plantation will be extended during the year, but attempts are being made to get the work done at cheaper rates than have hitherto been paid.

F.—Timber and Sandalwood Collection and cost and amount sold.

Timber.

Wood yards.	Collection in logs.	Cost.	Logs sold.	Rate per log.	Amount in Rs.	Remarks.
Shimoga and Luckuwulli, &c.	1294	0	1197	17—7—7	20,919	
Stunted teak poles... ...	1879	0	253	0—6—2	97	

Sandalwood.

Collection in candies at stores.	Cost per candy.	Candies sold.	Rate.	Amount in Rs.	Remarks.
1030	...	1683	67—1—8	1,12,937	The Mysore candy weighs 560 lbs. English.

38. Stock in hand at close of the year.

	Rs.	As.	P.
Timber	96,058	2	0
Sandalwood	21,420	0	0
Bamboos	689	4	0
Total....	1,18,167	6	0

G.—Financial Results.

39. The Budget estimated receipts under head I for 1867—68, and sale proceeds according to account sales, are as follows :—

Budget Estimates.	Rs.	A.	P.	Sales.	Rs.	A.	P.
Sale of Timber and Sandalwood brought to Depôts	1,35,000	0	0	Sale of Timber and Sandalwood ...	1,33,953	10	7
Do. of confiscated wood ...	670	0	0	Do. of confiscated Timber ...	1,370	0	2
	1,35,670	0	0	Value of stock in hand at close of 1867—68.	1,18,167	6	0
Deduct...	1,44,682	6	4		2,53,491	0	9
	9,012	6	4	Deduct of stock in hand at close of 1866—67.	1,08,808	10	5
				* Balance.....	1,44,682	6	4

The actual receipts and expenditure in the range as per payments into, and disbursements from, the Treasury, are as below :—

Expenditure.	Budget Estimate.			Actuals.			Receipts.	Budget Estimate.			Actuals		
Timber and Sandalwood working charges,	22,000	0	0	9,304	9	1	I.—Sale of Timber and Sandalwood brought to Depôts ..	1,35,000	0	0	1,30,112	15	8
Other working charges	4,460	0	0	451	15	4	II.—Do. do. removed by purchasers including seigniorage.	20,000	0	0	16,174	10	10
Establishment ..	21,404	0	0	15,548	15	10	III.—Duty on foreign Timber	0	0	0	871	11	4
Travelling allowances.	2,000	0	0	655	11	3	IV.—Permit Fees ..	0	0	0	906	13	0
Contingencies ...	1,460	0	0	762	10	6	V —Grazing dues ..	19,000	0	0	9,234	12	2
Deputation allowance.	0	0	0	0	0	0	VI.—Sale of fruits, &c.	12,500	0	0	17,726	3	8
							VII.—Sale of confiscated drift and waif Timber	670	0	0	1,370	0	2
							VIII.—Fines and Forfeitures.	220	0	0	140	9	0
							IX.—Miscellaneous receipts including sale of decayed trees and duty on elephants caught by private individuals	870	0	0	2,764	7	9
								1 88,260	0	0	1,79,302	3	7
Total.....	51,264	0	0	26,723	14	0	Deduct Expenditure ..	51,264	0	0	26,723	14	0
							Balance ...	1,36,996	0	0	1,52,578	5	7
							Value of stock in hand at close of 1867—68.	0	0	0	1,18,167	6	0
								1,36,996	0	0	2,70,745	11	7
							Deduct value of stock at close of 1866—67 ..	0	0	0	1,08,808	10	5
							Balance of Profit .	1,36,996	0	0	1,61,937	1	2

40. It will be noticed that though the total surplus profit of the year is considerably larger than the Budget estimate, the actuals in receipts I, "sale of timber and sandalwood brought to depôts by Government agency," are a little below the estimates. This was entirely owing to the very small demand for timber. Two sales were held during the year; one in June, one in October, but the account sales shew only a total sale proceeds of Rs. 20,000. The stock in hand is very large, some of it is long fine wood, but the greater portion is much cracked owing to long exposure to the sun, and should be sold off as soon as possible.

41. The sales of sandalwood were however very large. The collection of two years was sold and the account sales shew a return of Rs. 1,12,659. The rates were below those obtained in Ashtagram, where Rs. 81 per candy was got, against Rs. 67 in Nugur. Mr. Clerk requires more experience in the management of an auction, and I think he ought to have got the same prices as were given by merchants in Ashtagram.

II.—Contemplated Operations.

42. In accordance with the wishes of the Inspector General of Forests, the kans in Nugur, those of Sorub especially, are to be inspected jointly by the Superintendent, Revenue Survey, and the Conservator. The Conservator will also inspect the Chituldroog district with the view of finally deciding whether any portions should be reserved, and whether it will not be possible to open a trade in wood and fuel from the northern talook of Moolcalmooroo to Bellary. The practicability of floating down the Chinna Huggry to the Kistna must be ascertained; also whether wood cannot go to Bellary from Hurihur down the Toombudra and Kistna. Wood will be sold from the Sorub, Saugur, and Shikarpoor talooks on license to the inhabitants of the neighbouring country of Dharwar.

43. The Assistant Conservator has been furnished with a list of prices to be charged. He will not however fell any wood by Government agency in that portion of the country, and measures have been already taken to dispense with the services of the Kerahully Depôt overseer and his mootsuddy, the peons being retained. This measure has not yet been submitted to the Commissioner, but will be shortly. The Assistant Conservator's work will be chiefly in the revision of all the boundaries of the reserved forests. Several complaints, and many of them not without good grounds, have been made of the carelessness shown in fixing the limits of the reserved forests. It was however a serious matter to revise, and I was the more averse to doing so as the boundaries were approved by the former Conservator Major Hunter. Time has however shewn that the revision is required, and it is to be hoped that the work will be done this time carefully, and by an officer of more experience, than the Assistant now in charge.

44. The system of giving large advances to the timber wudders in Nugur has been forbidden absolutely. These men were almost always in debt to the department, but by holding out, I at last got into debt to them, and their accounts are now squared. They are still holding out and refuse to take up any new work without advances. The felling however will be very small this year, and I hope that when they find that we will not give way, they will come round and work for ready money paid on completion of their task. It is

true that there is no competition against them, but on the other hand we are the only people they can look to for steady and continuous work.

45. About 700 candies of sandalwood will be collected.

I.—General Remarks.

46. But little work has been done in this range. Mr. Clerk, though active in his habits, has gained but little experience during the past year, and for various reasons I would suggest his removal to another post in the department, which is not as important on account of the work to be done as the Nugur range. I believe that this range, if properly worked, would be by far the richest of the three, and yield a very large revenue from its sandalwood and common jungle timbers. The large teak forests have been overworked, and will have to be left alone for some years to come, but in the north about Coomsee and Shikarpoor there is teak of fair growth and useful size, which will, if properly worked, yield a good return for the money spent on it, and be a source of supply to the surrounding country.

47. The Inspector General of Forests and the Conservator did not reach the Nugur range till after the close of the official year. The result of the Inspector General's investigations will doubtless appear in his report, but this and the measures proposed by him will not of course appear in the report for 1867—68.

NUNDIDROOG RANGE.

A.—Examination of Forest Tracts and Land applied for by private individuals.

48. The Mirlwady hóbly in the Kankanhully talook was carefully inspected and mapped on a scale of 2 inches to the mile. It is intended to demarcate sufficient land round the villages in this hóbly for the wants of the inhabitants, and to apply for the remainder of the hóbly being handed over to the Forest department as a fuel reserve for the supply of Bangalore.

49. The Killakawal jungle in Magady was also mapped on the same scale, and it may also be found expedient to take up large portions of land round that part of the country as fuel reserves for Bangalore and the Railway. The standing jungle will, if sanction is accorded, be divided into blocks and cut (if possible by contract) in rotation and under careful supervision.

50. No forest land was applied for by private individuals.

B.—Selection and Demarcation of Reserved Forests.

51. No change has been made during the year in the lists of reserved forests, nor has any demarcation been yet undertaken. Further experience has not altered my opinion that the timber trade in Nundidroog cannot at present be lucrative. Our attention should be chiefly confined to the demarcation and conservation of fuel reserves, to the collection of sandalwood, and its extension by forming large reserves of this valuable wood.

C.—Protection of the Forests.

52. The reserved forests have been protected as far as possible by the peons in charge. The amount realized by sale of confiscated wood was only

Rs. 176, but two important cases, in which native revenue officials of some standing were implicated, were reported during the year. They are still under investigation.

D.—Yield of the Forests.

53. It was found quite impracticable to work the Kankanhully forests, and no timber was felled during the year. 650 cubic feet of confiscated wood were collected from the Wooyambulli hóbly, and a few bamboos. Fourteen thousand bamboos were collected for sale at the Bangalore kotee. As was anticipated, the wood stored at Kankanhully remained on hand without any purchasers applying for it. I therefore had 80 logs brought into Bangalore and sold at the kotee, but the sale was unsatisfactory.

54. The yield of sandalwood during the year was 303 candies. The estimated yield was placed at 400. 468 candies were actually felled, but 165 having been only partially prepared were not brought on to the accounts.

E.—Plantations and Nurseries.

55. Three fourths (about 24 acres) of the Coongul plantation have been planted out with the following trees; ebony, neem, baghy (*Acacia speciosa*), kurachi (*Hardwickia binuta*), nundy (*Lagerstræmia microcarpa*), teak, babool, honay, matty, sandal, and bilwar (*Acacia odoratissima*). Much sandalwood has been sown in the nursery at Kankanhully, and at length the Sub-Assistant Conservator has been successful in getting a quantity of it to germinate, and grow well. It succeeds best where weeds and grass are allowed to grow up all round it, thus shading it. Sowing cotton round it as was done in Madras, would seem to be unnecessary. The plant requires protection only round its foot, and appears to prefer thrown up earth. It flourishes luxuriantly on bunds of tanks and round the old fort walls so common in Mysore.

56. There was some delay in getting the land for a fuel plantation at Ooscottah, and the work was therefore postponed, but since operations commenced in November 1867, the whole of the ground (393 acres) was before the close of the year enclosed with a ditch 4 feet deep and 3 wide. The earth was thrown upon the inside and kurkapilli (*Inga dulcis*) seeds sown on a length of nearly 1000 yards. Three wells were sunk, and water reached in two at a depth of 14 feet. The ground selected is the catchment bason of a tank. For facility of obtaining water, the third well was sunk on high ground, but water was not found at 60 feet, still as it will be much wanted, I intend sinking still lower. Fourteen trenches for the reception of seed have been dug across the plantation at a distance of five feet from centre to centre. Each trench is a foot in depth and breadth, and a total length of 18,000 yards have been thus excavated. The *Inga dulcis* hedge succeeded capitally, but towards the end of the late long continued hot weather, it died off in several places—owing most probably to the action of the sun on the roots. The seeds were sown on the top of newly thrown up and therefore loose earth. It is however being renewed, and a second hedge of aloes as proposed by Dr. Brandis is to be put down. Owing to the delay in getting the land and the great difficulty experienced in getting labor, but a small proportion of the sum allowed for plantations was expended.

F.—Timber and Sandalwood Collection, and Cost, Quantity sold, and for what Amount.

57. *Timber.*

Woodyard.	Collection in logs	Cost per cubic foot.	Logs sold.	Rate per log	Amount in Rupees	Remarks.
	Confiscated wood.					
Kankanhully	532.	0—2—9	136	3—1—2½	418—6—1	
Bamboos	14,071	0—0—0	471	0—0—4½	10—9—9	

Sandalwood.

Collection in candies in stores.	Cost per candy.	Candies sold.	Rate per candy	Amount	
303.	11—4—2	709	74—6—11	52,775	

58. Stock in hand at close of the year—

		Rs.	As.	P.
1161 logs of timber valued at Rs.	..	1,400	0	0
166 candies of sandalwood do.	..	13,250	0	0
14,025 bamboos	..	270	0	0
	Total....	14,920	0	0

59. Sandalwood was collected by contract and by monegars. The total charges per candy amounted to Rs. 11—4—2, but sandalwood collected by monegars cost only Rs. 7 per candy, the plan is far cheaper than collection on the contract system. The selling price of sandalwood was Rs. 7 per candy below that of Ashtagram.

G.—Financial Results.

60. The sale proceeds as per account sales received, plus the stock in hand at close, and minus stock in hand at the beginning of the year, shew a total of Rs. 31,782 less than the Budget estimate. This requires explanation. The estimated sales of timber were put down at Rs. 45,000, and the realizations were Rs. 53,225, but there was a very large stock of sandalwood in hand at the close of 1866—67, the collection of two years. The following table exhibits the items referred to.

Budget Estimate.	Rs	A.	P.	Sale	Rs.	A.	P.
Sale of Timber and Sandalwood brought to Depôts	45,000	0	0	1 Sale of Timber and Sandalwood (including confiscated wood) 175—13—3...	53,225	3	7
Sale of confiscated wood ...	500	0	0	Value of stock in hand at close of the year...	14,920	0	0
	45,500	0	0		68,145	3	7
Deduct ...	13,717	1	4	Deduct value of stock at commencement of 1867—68...	54,428	2	3
	31,782	14	8	Balance.....	13,717	1	4

As I have already reported (in para 53), no timber was felled during the year, and we cannot at present look for a revenue from this source in Nundidroog.

61. The actual moneys paid into and disbursed from the Treasury are shown below :—

Expenditure.	Budget Estimate.	Actuals.	Receipts.	Budget Estimate.	Actuals
Timber and Sandalwood Charges	10,000 0 0	5,768 12 5	I. Sale of Timber and Sandalwood at Depôts.	45,000 0 0	52,852 11 8
Other working Charges.	9,750 0 0	1,573 14 7	II. Do. including Seigniorage	22,000 0 0	14,015 10 6
Establishment ...	11,192 0 0	13,353 11 2	IV. Permit Fees ...	0 0 0	1,589 10 2
Travelling Allowance ...	1,500 0 0	1,692 12 10	V. Grazing Dues. ...	400 0 0	3,461 7 5
Contingencies... ...	4,000 0 0	1,021 13 4	VI. Sale of fruit, &c. ...	6,500 0 0	9,355 13 3
Deputation Allowance ...	0 0 0	1,445 2 7	VII. Sale of confiscated Timber	500 0 0	1 8 0
			VIII. Fine & Forfeitures.	0 0 0	994 7 0
			IX Miscellaneous Receipts	3,800 0 0	5,734 15 11
				78,200 0 0	88,009 3 11
Total ...	36,442 0 0	24,856 2 11	Deduct Expenditure...	36,442 0 0	24,856 2 11
			Balance ...	41,758 0 0	63,153 1 0
			Add Value of Stock in hand at close of 1867—68... ...	0 0 0	14,920 0 0
				41,758 0 0	78,073 1 0
			Deduct Value of Stock at close of 1866—67...	0 0 0	54,428 2 3
			Balance of Profit ...	41,758 0 0	23,644 14 9

II.—Contemplated Operations.

62. The Mirlawady hóbly will, it is to be hoped, be made into a large fuel reserve, the Dévaroydroog jungles will be mapped on a working scale of 8 inches to the mile, and firewood, for sale in Toomkoor, be cut in them by the department. Sandalwood plantations will also be formed here and in other suitable parts of the division. The karachee jungles in Seerah will be mapped, and where practicable demarcated.

63. The work at the Ooscottah plantation will be pushed on.

64. The Magady jungles will also be mapped and worked systematically for fuel and small wood.

65. The collection of sandalwood will be carried on, manégars being employed as far as possible.

I.—General Remarks.

66. Mr. Hunter, the Sub-Assistant has generally done his duty well, and is very active and careful in personally examining cases of theft. He suffered a good deal from fever, especially towards the close of the year.

67. It now remains for me to shew the general financial results of the whole department throughout the province. The accompanying statements

shew the details, but the general results of the year as compared with those of 1866—67, may be seen at a glance in the appended columns.

	1866—67.	1867—68.	
Receipts	2,66,020	4,10,012	
Expenditure	82,319	1,10,042	
Surplus	1,83,671	2,99,970	
Add Revenue realized on account of previous years. ...	0	10,595	
Add Value of Timber given to His Highness the Maha Rajah, from Ashtagram	11,815	4,668	
Do. do given to temples	105	151	
Total	1,95,591	3,15,387	
Stock in hand on 31st March 1867...	2,27,510	1,85,676	31st March 1868.
Do. do. 30th April 1866...	2,05,676	2,27,510	31st do. 1868.
Add Difference.....	21,864	41,864	Deduct Difference.
Total Surplus.....	2,17,455	2,73,523	
Out-standings on 31st March 1867...	20,992	7,991	31st March 1868.
Do. do April 1866	22,425	20,992	31st do 1867.
Deduct Difference.....	1,433	13,002	Deduct
Total Gross Surplus.....	2,16,022	2,60,521	

68. The revenue out-standing at the end of 1867—68 in the Ashtagram division is not known, as the necessary return has not been yet received from that range.

69. The total results shew a balance of Rs. 44,499 in favor of 1867—68, over 1866—67.

70. The Forest Rules, revised, were submitted to the Government of India and returned by them, with certain remarks and for further consideration. They were kept here till Dr. Brandis, the Inspector General of Forests, came down. He proposed various measures regarding village forest rules for the preservation of unreserved forests, &c., which being still unsettled, and opening several new points, the revision of the rules must still remain in abeyance. It will however be expedient, I think, to alter some of the provisions at once, but this is matter for a separate letter and not for a report.

71. No orders have yet been issued regarding the inspection, by the Assistant Conservator, of lands applied for by private individuals. It is doubtless right that the Forest department should examine all such land in the first instance, but definite rules should be drawn up regarding the duty of the Assistant Conservator. I would respectfully propose that in Ashtagram and Nugur two months in the year be set aside for this purpose, all land applied for to be inspected within those months, and the presence of the applicant or a duly authorized agent should be compulsory. In Nundidroog, such a rule need not be introduced, as the circumstances under which land is applied for in that division, are very different from those in Ashtagram or Nugur.

72. During the coming year, much of the Conservator's time will be employed in carefully inspecting the minor hill ranges of the plain talooks, with the view of making the best use of their resources in fuel and wood for the surrounding villages, the improvement of the grazing, and other matters which were pointed out by Dr. Brandis during his late tour through the country. These matters will doubtless be fully referred to by him in his forthcoming report on Mysore.

73. In conclusion, I beg to apologize for my being unable to submit this report by the 30th ultimo as directed. I returned to Bangaloro on the 11th May. I was then constantly with the Inspector General, and accompanied him to Madras, whence I did not return till the 24 ultimo. The Assistants' reports were also delayed by their being out in their districts with Dr. Brandis.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

G. J. VAN SOMEREN,
Offg. Conservator of Forests,
Mysore and Coorg.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, MYSORE.

Annual Abstract Account of the Forest Department in Mysore for the year 1867—68.

Year.	Heads of Account.	Rupees.	Year.	Heads of Account.	Rupees.
1867—68.	To Balance outstanding on 1st April 1867... ...	24,869 11 10	1867—68.	By Expenditure of the Department	1,10,042 4 6
	„ Revenue received	4,10,011 14 4		„ Advances recovered in Cash and remitted to Treasuries.	699 8 8
	„ Remittances from State Treasuries	97,504 14 9		„ Remittances to State Treasuries	4,10,011 14 4
	„ Deposits	0 0 0		„ Repayments of Deposits ...	0 0 0
	„ Advances recovered... ...	0 0 0		„ Refund of Revenue ...	1,093 1 0
				„ Balance outstanding ...	10,539 12 5
	Total.....	5,32,386 8 11		Total.....	5,32,386 8 11

Conservator of Forest's Office,
Bangalore, 14th July 1868.

(Signed) G. J. Van SOMEREN,
Offg. Conservator of Forests,
Mysore and Coorg

H HUDSON,
Dy. Accit General of Mysore.

Government Series, No. 21.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, MYSORE.

Annual Summary of Revenue and Expenditure in the different Divisions during 1867—68.

CLASSIFICATION.	Commissioner's Treasury.	Nundidroog Division.	Nugur Division.	Ashtagram Division.	Total.	Remarks.
RECEIPTS						
I Sale of Timber at Depôts } Timber ...	0 0 0	0 0 0	17,165 11 8	52,575 8 7	69,741 4 3	
} Sandalwood ...	0 0 0	52,852 11 8	1,12,947 0 0	72,028 2 6	2,37,828 2 2	
II Do. do. removed by Purchasers ..	0 0 0	11,015 10 6	16,174 10 10	11,221 3 4	41,411 8 8	
III Duty on Foreign Timber . ..	0 0 0	0 0 0	871 11 4	0 0 0	871 11 1	
IV Permit Fees	0 0 0	1,589 10 2	906 13 0	0 0 0	2,496 7 2	
V Grazing Dues	0 0 0	3,464 7 5	9,234 12 2	5 0 0	12,704 3 7	
VI Sale of fruits, &c.	0 0 0	9,355 13 8	17,726 3 8	5,242 5 4	32,324 6 3	
VII Sale of confiscated Timber	0 0 0	1 8 0	1,370 0 2	84 1 0	1,455 9 2	
VIII Fines and Forfeitures	0 0 0	994 7 0	140 9 0	235 14 11	1,370 14 11	
IX Miscellaneous Receipts including Sale of decayed trees and Duty on Elephants caught by private persons	10 0 10	5,734 15 11	2,764 7 9	1,298 2 4	9,807 10 10	
Total	10 0 10	88,009 3 11	179,302 3 7	1,42,690 6 0	4,10,011 14 4	
CONSERVANCY AND WORKING.						
I Timber Expenses	0 0 0	5,768 12 5	9,304 9 1	32,965 8 8	48,038 11 2	
II Purchase of Stock and Cattle	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	
III Feed and Keep of Cattle	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	921 14 11	921 14 11	
IV Rent of leased Forests . ..	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	
V Charges for collecting Revenue on Grass, &c. .	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	
VI Plantations	0 0 0	1,573 11 7	309 15 4	793 7 6	2,677 5 5	
VII Forest Work	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	
VIII Do. Survey	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	
IX Experiments on Timber	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	
X Communications and Buildings	0 0 0	0 0 0	142 0 0	536 14 3	678 14 3	
Total Conservancy and Working	0 0 0	7,342 11 0	9,756 8 5	35,217 13 4	52,317 0 9	
ESTABLISHMENTS.						
I Salaries including deputation allowance ...	3,583 15 11	14,798 13 9	15,518 15 10	17,240 5 9	51,172 3 3	
II Allowances (Travelling)	0 0 0	1,692 12 10	655 11 3	1,394 4 7	3,742 12 8	
III Contingencies.	374 4 0	1,021 13 4	762 10 6	651 8 0	2,810 3 10	
Total Establishments.....	3,958 3 11	17,513 7 11	16,967 5 7	19,286 2 4	57,725 3 9	
Grand Total Expenditure ...	3,958 3 11	24,856 2 11	26,723 14 0	54,503 15 8	1,10,042 4 6	

CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS' OFFICE,
Mysore and Coorg,
Bangalore, 15*th June* 1868.

G. J. Van SOMEREN,
Offg. Conservator of Forests,
Mysore and Coorg.

GOVERNMENT SERIES, No. 23.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, MYSORE.

Annual Statement of Out-standings and Liabilities of the Department on account of Contractors and Disbursers for the year 1867—68.

DIVISION.	DEPARTMENT DEBTOR.			DEPARTMENT CREDITOR.			BALANCE DUE		REMARKS.
	At commencement of year.	Recoveries in cash and value of work supplies and work done during year.	At close of year.	At commencement of year.	Payments made during year	At close of year.	To Department Out-standings.	By Department Liabilities.	
Nundidroog	2,076 14 7	7,342 11 0	522 5 11	95 3 7	5,788 2 4	0 0 0	522 5 11	0 0 0	
Nugur	8,955 4 3	9,489 8 5	6,495 9 5	1,780 12 0	7,029 13 7	7,555 14 1	6,495 9 5	7.555 14 1	
Ashtagram	13,837 9 0	35,344 15 4	3,521 13 1	213 9 5	25,029 3 5	1,307 6 10	3,521 13 1	1,307 6 10	
Total.....	24,869 11 10	52,177 2 9	10,539 12 5	2,089 9 0	37 847 3 4	8,863 4 11	10,539 12 5	8,863 4 11	

CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS' OFFICE,
15*th June* 1868.

G J. VAN SOMEREN,
Offg. Conservator of Forests,
Mysore and Coorg.

GOVERNMENT SERIES, No. 28.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, MYSORE.

Annual Account of Forest Revenue for the year 1867-68.

Receipts	4,10,011	14	4
Expenditure...	1,10,042	4	6
Surplus....	2,99,969	9	10
Deduct difference between assets and liabilities at the commencement and close of the year 1867—68.	29,825	0	0
Net Revenue	2,70,141	9	10

Note.—Besides the above sums which shew the actual transactions on timber and sandalwood brought into the depots, the value of timber and sandalwood in various states in the forests may be approximately estimated at rupees

Detail of difference between assets and liabilities at the commencement and close of the year 1867—68.

	At commencement of the year.	At close of the year.	Difference. In favor of the year.	Difference. Against the year.
Value of timber and other stock	2,03,790	1,85,676	0	23,114
Out-standing on account of sales and excess payments to contractors	19,681	19,837	156	0
Total Assets.....	2,28,471	2,05,513	156	23,111
Deduct Liabilities.....	1,876	8,587	0	6,711
Balance.....	2,26,595	1,96,926	156	29,825

CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS' OFFICE,
MYSORE AND COORG,
BANGALORE, 15*th June* 1868.

G. J. VAN SOMEREN,
Offg. Conservator of Forests,
Mysore and Coorg.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED
BY J. P. GARRETT, SUPT, MYSORE GOVT. PRESS, BANGALORE.
1868.

No. 256 F.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Revenue—Forests.

To

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE.

SIMLA, THE 16TH JUNE 1869.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2574-65, dated 3rd August 1868, forwarding, with your review, the Progress Report of Forest Administration in Mysore for the year 1867-68, and to communicate the following observations and orders.

2. In the Ashtagram Division, a commencement had been made of demarcating the State or Reserved forests, the selection of the principal forest tracts to be demarcated had been completed, and it was intended to add some reserves, mainly for the growth of sandalwood.

3. In Nuggur, the selection of the State forests had been made in an unsatisfactory way, and it was proposed to revise the boundaries of the tracts selected.

4. In the Nundidroog Division, it was said that the Government forests are of little value, and that attention would be concentrated on forming and conserving fuel plantations, and encouraging the growth of sandalwood.

5. The proceedings reported regarding the Ashtagram and Nuggur forests are satisfactory. Regarding Nundidroog, I am directed to invite your attention to the Mysore Forest Reports for 1865-66 and 1866-67, where it was said that a number of forests were proposed to be reserved in this division, and where it was explained that the result of carefully preserving the Devaroydroog jungle by the late Superintendent of Nundidroog had been most satisfactory.

6. The Conservator may be quite correct in his opinion that the timber trade in Nundidroog cannot at present be lucrative; but it should be remembered that the production of timber is not the only object of forest management. Bamboos, small wood for agricultural and domestic purposes, firewood, and a variety of other forest produce, are necessities of great importance, the consumption of which must go on increasing with the growth of agriculture, industry and trade in the country.

7. In an open country, such as the greater part of the Nundidroog Division is believed to be, with a dry climate, and a comparatively small extent of jungle distributed unequally over the country, these jungles, however poor they may be, must necessarily possess great value, as the sources of many articles of forest produce which are indispensable, and the supply of

which, unless husbanded, must eventually seriously diminish. It appears to His Excellency in Council that in order to provide for these requirements, it will be necessary to demarcate the most promising of these jungles as State forests, with the view of their management in accordance with some well-considered plan of operations. His Excellency in Council trusts that the demarcation of these jungles in the Nundidroog Division will be steadily proceeded with.

8. At the same time, it is very satisfactory that you consider the formation of plantations to provide fuel for the Railway and other purposes to be a work of great importance. The Conservator reports fair progress in the Coongul and Ooscotta plantations; the land taken up for the former is stated to measure about 100, that for the latter about 400 acres. These areas, I am directed to state, will be found quite inadequate to meet the requirements of the Railway and of the country generally. Moreover, plantations of a limited extent are not likely to prove remunerative.

9. The Conservator refers to the difficulty in obtaining land for the purpose. I am directed to state that every facility should be given for the acquisition of land by the Forest Department, and that the planting operations should be prosecuted on a sufficiently large scale, and under competent supervision.

10. It is satisfactory that the Conservator reports success in his endeavours to cultivate the sandalwood tree at Kunkanhully. In paragraph 12 of the orders on the Forest Reports for 1865-66 and 1866-67, attention was called to the necessity of increasing the production of the sandalwood tree, either by cultivation or by aiding its natural growth. The question was raised at the time, whether the importance of this work would not warrant the introduction of specially trained agency. In reply to these orders, the Conservator stated that he did not think the services of a trained Officer were required, and that the Assistants ought to be able to carry out such work themselves, an opinion in which you expressed your general concurrence. It is difficult, however, to understand how, without the aid of skilled agency, satisfactory progress on a large scale can be made in such undertakings as the cultivation of sandalwood, and the fuel plantations near the line of Railway, and I am directed again to invite your attention to this subject.

11. The yield of the forests, and the operations in timber and sandalwood, are clearly shown in the stock account appended to the report, which is similar in form (but not as conveniently arranged) as the Statement marked IV. in the Report for 1866-67.

12. Comparing the totals of both years, it would appear that a much larger quantity was collected and brought to depôts in 1867-68. The figures stand thus—

	1866-67.	1867-68.
Teak logs	1,917	4,048
Jungle-wood logs	1,422	659
Bamboos	1,428	15,950
Sandalwood (candies)	1,665	2,368

13. In the case of teak, it is explained that the greater part of the wood collected was old timber previously felled, and that the quantity felled during the year was reduced from 22,930 cubic feet in 1866-67 to 15,916 cubic feet in 1867-68. This is satisfactory, and it is said that felling operations of teak in Ashtagram and Nuggur will be still further reduced.

14. But in the case of sandalwood, it would appear that the larger quantity brought in was due to extended cutting operations. I am directed to suggest some caution in the consumption of sandalwood. It should be considered whether arrangements may be made for working the sandalwood tracts in a regular rotation, allowing rest to certain tracts while cutting in others.

15. With future annual reports, the Conservator should be instructed to submit an abstract return, showing the number of trees, or the quantity of cubic feet *felled*, separate from that *brought into depôts*.

16. An important matter is noticed in paragraph 71 of the report, *viz.*, that the time of the Divisional Forest Officers in Mysore is frequently unduly taken up by inspections of land applied for by private individuals for coffee-planting or other purposes. Applications, it would appear, come in at all times of the year, and frequently at short notice. The Assistant may thus be compelled to leave his work at one end of the range, and to hasten to another part, in order to inspect a few hundred acres of land. This inspection previous to sale or lease is necessary, and it is provided for by the Mysore Forest Rules. But arrangements should be made so as not unnecessarily to break into and waste the time of the Forest Officers when engaged in forest duties. It is observed that you have desired the Conservator of Forests to consult the Superintendents of Divisions on this matter. His Excellency in Council trusts that the subject will not be lost sight of, and desires that in due time a report may be submitted, showing what is proposed to be done in this respect.

17. The financial results of the year are represented in the prescribed forms. But there are several discrepancies which require explanation.

In the abstract cash account for the year, which is countersigned by the Deputy-Accountant General, the balance outstanding on 1st April 1867 is entered at Rs. 24,869. This amount consists of two items —

Cash balance	Rs.	12,982
Advances outstanding	„	11,887
	Total Rs.	24,869

which are entered separately in the cash account for 1866-67, received with the Budget for 1868-69. In future, the aggregate cash balance in hand should always be shown distinct from the outstanding advances.

18. The arrangement of the Statement of Outstandings and Liabilities of the year does not appear to be correct. The third column under both "Department Debtor" and "Department Creditor" should exhibit the totals of the two first columns. If the arrangement of the figures adopted in this statement is correctly understood, the balances due to and by the Department at the close of 1866-67, as shewn in the statement for that year, do not agree with the balances brought forward in the statement for 1867-68.

The result at the close of 1866-67 (difference between the two last columns) is Rs. 20,992 in favor of the department. The corresponding amount entered in the statement for 1867-68 would be the difference between the two first columns under "Department Debtor" and "Department Creditor," which amounts to Rs. 22,780. These figures, however, do not agree with the amounts entered as "Outstandings" in a statement inserted in paragraph 67 of the report. Again, the figures of this statement are at variance with the figures of Form 28.

19. The value of stock at the commencement of 1867-68 is given at Rs. 2,08,789 in the stock account for that year, but in the stock account for 1866-67 the corresponding figure is entered at Rs. 2,27,539: the former figure is adopted in the annual account of Forest Revenue (Statement 28), the latter in the statement entered in paragraph 67 of the report. The result is that these two statements, which apparently both purport to exhibit the net revenue of the year, do not agree in their results. I am directed to request that these discrepancies may be cleared up, and that in future reports the statements may be more clearly and carefully prepared.

20. The data exhibited in the prescribed annual returns should be fully discussed in the body of the report; but the Conservator should be careful to see that the figures given in the report and the tabular statements agree. Such items as the value of timber given to His Highness the Maharajah and to temples should be added in a foot-note on Statement 28, and the outstandings on account of sales should also be detailed.

21. Under the circumstances above noticed, it is not apparent which figure should be taken as the amount of net revenue for 1867-68. The cash surplus was Rs. 2,99,970, but in addition to this, an item of Rs. 10,595 is entered as revenue realized on account of previous years, which apparently ought to have appeared under "Receipts," and Rs. 4,822, the value of timber given to the Maharajah and to temples. Against the total of these items, Rs. 3,15,387, stands the decrease in the value of stock (Rs. 41,864),* and the increase of liabilities, which in Form 28 is entered as Rs. 6,711, total Rs. 48,575. From this should, according to the same statement, be deducted the difference between outstandings on account of sales and excess payments to contractors, Rs. 156, leaving Rs. 48,419 against the operations of the year.

31st March 1867 ...	Rs.	2,27,540 (Report for 1866-67.)
1868 ...	„	1,85,676
Difference	„	41,864

22. If these figures are correct, then the net revenue of the year would appear to have been Rs. 2,66,968. A report should be submitted by the Conservator and the Deputy Accountant General, showing, with reference to the above remarks, what ought to be regarded as the correct net revenue of the year.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

Colonel, R.E.,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.